

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter for performing an intravascular procedure, comprising ~~a catheter shaft having~~

a) a catheter shaft comprising an inner and outer tubular member, the an inner tubular member defining a first lumen, and the outer tubular member being disposed about the inner tubular member to form a second lumen;

b) ~~an outer tubular member disposed about the inner tubular member to form a second lumen; and~~

[[c)] b) a side wall which extends longitudinally along an outer surface of at least a portion of the inner tubular member within the second lumen and which defines a third lumen configured to receive a mandrel, and which is radially spaced apart from an inner surface of the outer tubular member by the second lumen extending fully around an inner circumference of the outer tubular member; and

c) a mandrel in the third lumen.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled)

4. (Cancel)

5. (Original) The catheter claim [[4]] 1, wherein the mandrel has tapered ends.

6 . (Original) The catheter of claim 5, wherein the tapered ends of the mandrel are about 1 to about 7 centimeters long.

7 . (Original) The catheter of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the mandrel is about 7 to about 120 centimeters long.

8 . (Original) The catheter of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the mandrel is secured within the mandrel lumen by heat deformation of the sidewall.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

11 . (Original) The catheter of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the mandrel lumen is annular and has an inner diameter which is not substantially larger than an outer diameter of the mandrel.

12 . (Original) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the mandrel lumen proximal end is distal to the proximal end of the catheter outer tubular member.

13 . (Original) The catheter of claim 12, wherein the mandrel lumen is about 0.5 to about 15 centimeters long.

14 . (Original) The catheter of claim 12 wherein the outer tubular member has a proximal portion, a distal portion, and an intermediate portion therebetween, and wherein the mandrel lumen is within the intermediate portion.

15 . (Original) The catheter of claim 14, wherein the intermediate portion with the mandrel within the mandrel lumen therein is relatively more stiff than the proximal portion and the distal portion.

16 . (Original) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the mandrel lumen extends to the proximal end of the outer tubular member.

17 . (Original) The catheter of claim 16 wherein the mandrel lumen is about 110 to about 125 cm long.

18 . (Cancel) .

19 . (Original) The catheter of claim 16, wherein the mandrel is exchangeable.

Claims 20-22 (Canceled)

23 . (Currently Amended) A balloon catheter for performing an intravascular procedure, comprising

a) a catheter shaft having an inner tubular member defining a guidewire lumen and an outer tubular member disposed about the inner tubular member to form an inflation lumen; and

b) a mandrel having a proximal end, a distal end, and a length, the mandrel being disposed within the outer tubular member and secured to the catheter shaft at least at the proximal end and the distal end of the mandrel and wherein the mandrel is secured to an outer surface of the inner tubular member and is not secured to the outer tubular member; and

c) a balloon on a distal shaft section having a proximal end secured to the outer tubular member and a distal end secured to the inner tubular member so that an interior of the balloon is in fluid communication with the inflation lumen.

24 . (Original) The catheter of claim 23, wherein the mandrel is secured to the catheter shaft along the length of the mandrel from the proximal end to the distal end of the mandrel.

Claim 25-30 (Canceled)

31. (new) The catheter of claim 23 wherein the mandrel has a length substantially shorter than a length of the catheter.

32. (new) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the third lumen has a length substantially shorter than a length of the catheter.